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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,
THURSDAY, JULY 1, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL
International press: Bush pushes Turkey toward Europe -
Milliyet
NATO Summit over, Istanbul returns to daily routine - Sabah
Barzani: Either federation or independence - Aksam
EU plans to by-pass Greek Cypriots - Hurriyet
Dutch PM: We will treat Turkey fairly - Hurriyet
'Ordinary' criminal Saddam may receive capital punishment -
Milliyet
Death penalty awaits Saddam - Aksam

OPINION MAKERS
French press: Bush ignored Chirac on Turkey - Zaman
Powell extends helping hand to Darfur - Radikal
Barzani: Independence is Kurds' destiny - Radikal
Al-Zarkawi captured - Iraqi daily - Yeni Safak
Saddam and 11 top aides in Iraqi court - Zaman
Iraqis to charge Saddam on Halabja - Yeni Safak
ECHR ruling on headscarf disappoints AK Party - Cumhuriyet
Paddy Ashdown sacks 60 officials for protecting Karadzic -
Radikal
Guantanamo detainees to be transferred to US - Radikal
US to recall 6,000 soldiers for Iraq, Afghanistan -
Cumhuriyet
Israeli court shifts route of security fence - Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

AK Party hides decree on Incirlik AB: A government decree
on the extension of US use of Incirlik Airbase has not been
revealed to the public, "Cumhuriyet" claims. The
unclassified government decree authorizing the extension of

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the US military presence at Incirlik has not been published
in the Official Gazette. The decree, which was endorsed by
the AK Party government prior to the Bush visit to Turkey,
allows Iraqi coalition forces to use military facilities in
Turkey in a way that goes beyond the scope of humanitarian
assistance. The decree allows for the transfer of
logistical support, military personnel and equipment via
Turkey, "Cumhuriyet" claims.

Israeli ambassador denies secret activities in Iraq:
Israel's Ambassador to Ankara, Pinhas Avivi, denied
allegations by "The New Yorker" with regard to Israeli
intelligence operatives providing military training to
northern Iraqi Kurds. Speaking to "Aksam" daily, Avivi said
Israel has carried out all of its activities in the region
in consultation with Ankara. Israel would not jeopardize
its 'crucial' relationship with Turkey, Avivi emphasized. A
divided Iraq would be a considerable loss for Israel, he
stressed.

Barzani expects sovereignty for Kurds: KDP leader Massoud
Barzani told the Arabic 'Al-Hayat' daily that the Kurds
would eventually unite and gain independence. 'Iraqi Kurds
are not inferior to Arabs,' Barzani said, adding that 'we
won't accept second-class treatment in Iraq.' Barzani
warned that the Kurds would opt for separation and
independence if the new Iraqi constitution does not bring a
federal, democratic regime.

Cyprus: The European Commission (EC) is expected to endorse
on July 7 a package of measures aimed at removing economic
sanctions on northern Cyprus by by-passing the Greek
Cypriots, "Hurriyet" reports. Greek Cypriots have warned
that they will take the agreement to European courts if the
Commission approves the package. According to the
agreement, the EU would allow the direct export of
commodities produced in the 'TRNC.' The EU will also

release a long-promised Euro 259 million in assistance to Turkish Cypriots. The assistance will be administered by an EU office to be opened in northern Cyprus. Meanwhile, coalition bargaining between the three Turkish Cypriot parties has ended unsuccessfully. `TRNC PM' Mehmet Ali Talat said that early elections would have to be held if an agreement is not reached soon.

Turkey cuts defense spending: Defense Minister Vecdi Gonul has announced that there had been a TL 4,000 trillion cut in defense spending in 2003. Gonul added that the government is also working to reduce the number of conscripts. The Turkish General Staff is planning to eliminate a brigade at the border with Greece and two other brigades in central and eastern Turkey, "Hurriyet" reports.

EDITORIAL OPINION: POTUS Speech in Istanbul

"A Historical Speech for Middle East"

Cuneyt Ulsever commented in the mass appeal "Hurriyet" (7/1): "President Bush's speech in Istanbul was a declaration by the United States to the world. The US President declared that bringing democracy and freedom to the Middle East is the most immediate priority for the US in its fight against terrorism. This is a very impressive declaration, because the gist of the Middle East issue stems from the dictatorial regimes in the region and the support given to those regimes by the Western powers. President Bush openly acknowledged this sin committed by the West. This is a very significant self-criticism. ... The President's speech also provided guidance on the content of the Broader Middle East and North Africa Project. As Bush listed the main goals of the initiative, it is obvious that achieving those goals must involve Turkey. This makes Turkey the luckiest country in the 21st century. ... The main goal outlined by President Bush is a democratic and free Middle East. This would be in the interest of the region, the United States, and the world. Let us all pursue this goal."

"A Brand New NATO"

Zafer Atay observed in the economic-political "Dunya" (7/1): "The NATO alliance has assumed a brand new identity after the Istanbul summit, which marked the end of NATO's search for a new role in today's world. ... NATO has expanded its scope of interest as much as possible. From now on, the borders of the NATO alliance will not be limited to the two sides of the Atlantic, but will encompass the entire world. The new threats have been identified as international terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. These are global threats, and the alliance has responded accordingly."

"A Message to the Middle East from Istanbul"

Akif Emre argued in the Islamist-intellectual "Yeni Safak" (7/1): "The choice of the venue for the Bush speech was symbolically important and provided a message to the Middle East. The gist of the message is that the US considers Istanbul as its gateway to the Middle East. Transforming the Islamic world has now been described as a strategic goal for NATO, and Turkey, as a Muslim country, should take the first step in standing against this concept. However, the government is preoccupied with efforts to enhance its domestic power and gain more international legitimacy. All of this will only lead to a policy whereby Turkey facilitates the US infiltration of the Islamic geography through the use of NATO. The US now holds in its hands every legal and military prerequisite for taking the Middle East under its hegemony. Those who consider this as an historic summit should realize that this is all part of a strategy that will bring the region only more chaos and bloodshed."

EDELMAN